

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ms Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Finland would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe for organizing this important meeting.
- The Protocol on Water and Health has played an important role in the advances that we have made towards risk-based management of water resources, water supply and sanitation.
- As a Member State of the European Union, we find it important to promote the coordination between EU legislation and the Protocol for safeguarding the human rights-based approach to water and sanitation.
- A good example is the recast Drinking Water Directive of the European Union. The Directive recognizes the importance of the Protocol on Water Health to protect human health through better water management, and emphasizes the importance of the guidance documents developed under the Protocol to achieve that goal.
- Finland used the Protocol as a platform to implement some parts of Drinking Water Directive by amending the national targets that already previously had been related to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Firstly, a new target was set to identify the most vulnerable and marginalized groups whose access to drinking water could be improved, and to assess the means for improving the access.
- Secondly, a target was set to assess the need of public water supply points in order to improve the water supply level for example in recreational areas, or in order to improve availability of drinking water for persons whose level of access to drinking water should be improved
- The third new target provides the frame to manage the water quality defects caused by domestic water supply systems, or in other words: compiling building water safety plans in accordance with the guidance of WHO especially targeted to fight against Legionella infections.
- As a summary, with these examples we aimed to show the suitability of the Protocol on Water and Health to set concrete targets to implement legislative

provisions. This applies not only to EU Member States to implement EU legislation, but also the EU accession countries and all other countries to show conformity with EU legislation.

- With these words, I encourage you all to consider target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health as a powerful tool to convert legislation into concrete action!